
SENATE BILL 6598

State of Washington 57th Legislature

2002 Regular Session

By Senators Kohl-Welles, Horn, Jacobsen, Winsley, Johnson, Prentice, Rossi, Hewitt, Eide, McAuliffe, Rasmussen and Finkbeiner

Read first time 01/22/2002. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to natural science and wildlife education; adding
2 new sections to chapter 28A.300 RCW; and creating a new section.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) Effective natural science and wildlife
5 education programs provide the foundation for the development of
6 literate children and adults, setting the stage for lifelong learning.
7 Furthermore, natural science and wildlife education offers many
8 opportunities for achieving excellence in our schools. Well-designed
9 programs, integrated with the state's essential academic learning
10 requirements, can contribute to the state's educational reform goals.

11 (2) Washington is fortunate to have institutions that currently
12 provide quality natural science and wildlife education and teacher
13 training that is already integrated with the state's essential academic
14 learning requirements.

15 (3) Therefore, the purpose of the natural science and wildlife
16 education partnership trust fund is to further the development of
17 natural science and wildlife education in the state by:

18 (a) Providing state funds to match moneys provided by private
19 sources to fund proven natural science and wildlife education programs

1 that are fully integrated with the state's essential academic learning
2 requirements; and

3 (b) Disbursing money through a competitive grant-making process.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.300
5 RCW to read as follows:

6 The Washington natural science and wildlife education partnership
7 fund is hereby created to provide natural science and wildlife
8 education opportunities for teachers and students to help achieve the
9 highest quality of excellence in education through compliance with the
10 essential academic learning requirements. The fund shall be in the
11 custody of the state treasurer. Receipts from appropriations must be
12 deposited into the fund. Expenditures from the fund shall be made by
13 grants by the superintendent of public instruction. Only the
14 superintendent of public instruction or the superintendent's designee
15 may authorize expenditures from the fund. The fund is subject to the
16 allotment procedures under chapter 43.88 RCW, but an appropriation is
17 not required for expenditures.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.300
19 RCW to read as follows:

20 (1) The superintendent of public instruction shall establish and
21 publish funding criteria for natural science and wildlife education
22 grants. These criteria shall be based on compliance with the essential
23 academic learning requirements. The criteria must also include natural
24 science and wildlife education programs with one or more of the
25 following features:

26 (a) Methods that encourage critical thinking;

27 (b) Multidisciplinary approaches to natural science and wildlife
28 conservation issues;

29 (c) Programs that target underserved, disadvantaged, and
30 multicultural populations;

31 (d) Programs that reach out to schools across the state that would
32 otherwise not have access to specialized natural science or wildlife
33 conservation programs.

34 (2) Eligible uses of grants include, but are not limited to:

35 (a) Continuing in-service and preservice training for educators
36 with materials specifically developed to enable educators to teach

1 science essential academic learning requirements in a compelling and
2 effective manner;

3 (b) Proven, innovative programs that teach natural science and
4 wildlife conservation, especially those that emphasize interactive
5 technology and meet the needs of varying learning styles; and

6 (c) Support and equipment needed for the implementation of the
7 programs in this section.

8 (3) Funds may only be disbursed to nonprofit organizations that can
9 provide matching funds from private sources.

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